



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

SB 333

September 1, 2020

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of SB 333.

SB 333 would require the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to reimburse all local governments that rely on property taxes for foregone tax revenues when the state acquires certain land to be used for a public purpose. This is an expansion of the ODNR's current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.

Under the bill, the PILT program will issue reimbursement payments twice per year, when property taxes are typically disbursed. Those payments will be equal to the amount of the tax revenue that would be lost by the local governments and will be disbursed to those political subdivisions by the county treasurer.

SB 333 benefits Ohio's cities and village by expanding the PILT program to municipalities as well as fire and EMS departments, which Ohioans living in municipalities rely on to provide quality public safety services. The land acquired by ODNR will rely on those safety services as well.

We want to thank Sen. Schaffer for his work to ensure Ohio's local governments are able to continue to deliver the quality local services Ohioans deserve. Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your favorable passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League